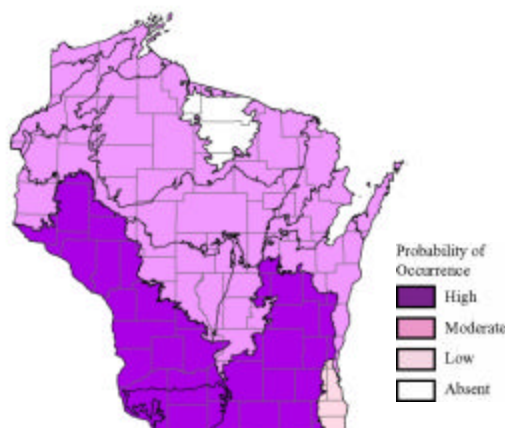


Pickerel Frog (*Rana palustris*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	3
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	4
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.4
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Southeast Glacial Plains	Emergent marsh
Southeast Glacial Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern sedge meadow
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater rivers
Southeast Glacial Plains	Warmwater streams
Southeast Glacial Plains	Wet-mesic prairie
Southwest Savanna	Warmwater streams
Western Coulee and Ridges	Coldwater streams
Western Coulee and Ridges	Coolwater streams
Western Coulee and Ridges	Emergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Submergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Warmwater rivers

Threats and Issues

- The potential net impacts of climate change, including increased stream temperatures and reduced precipitation, are probably negatives for this species.
- Riparian, shoreline and instream habitat disturbance and degradation caused by agricultural run-off, increased impervious surfaces, and intensive grazing threaten this species.
- The loss of vegetated shoreline caused by past sedimentation and subsequent streambank erosion (cutting and sloughing) is a threat to pickerel frogs. This is particularly notable in the driftless area where this frog would naturally be most abundant because of its affinity to cold water streams.
- Stream warming, resulting from reduced groundwater infiltration (related to intensive hillside grazing), and loss of stream miles are threats to pickerel frogs..
- Non-native invasive plants such as reed canary grass and giant reed grass decrease shoreline habitat suitability.

- Non-point source pollution increases turbidity, which is negatively correlated with some other stream dwelling frogs. This may be particularly important to pickerel frogs, which appear more reliant on clear water than any other Wisconsin frog.
- A variety of other pollutants may also have negative impacts on this species or its habitat, including mercury, acid rain, and road salt.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Permanent protection of lands supporting several viable populations of this species is needed.
- Long term protection and preservation of shorelines and buffers is needed throughout the range of this species.
- Protect riparian habitats, restore shoreline buffers and exclude cattle from streams/streambanks and adjacent breeding wetlands.
- Restore habitat connectivity between streams and breeding wetlands, which may be more than 100 meters from a stream.
- Laws are needed requiring the exclusion of livestock from streams.
- Increased protection of shoreline habitat through more restrictive shoreland zoning ordinances is needed.
- Major strides in policy and education efforts are needed to ensure that wildlife habitat is adequately represented and considered in zoning and planning decisions.
- Increased efforts are needed to educate the agricultural community about water quality, including benefits of healthy waters for both people and wildlife.
- Long term monitoring is needed to evaluate population status and track trends of representative populations.
- Continue and increase funding for landowner incentive programs that promote improved shoreline, riparian, and wetland habitats.
- Continue to coordinate project reviews and continue training efforts with Natural Resources Conservation Service staff and other land conservation organizations.